

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1618

By Pody

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Rufus H. Riggan on the occasion of his posthumous induction into the Wilson County Agricultural Hall of Fame.

WHEREAS, agriculture has been a cornerstone of Wilson County since the county's founding in 1799, and those citizens involved in farming have always been a vital part of the community; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we specially recognize those outstanding citizens who dedicated their lives to promoting the importance of agriculture in our society; and

WHEREAS, the late Rufus H. Riggan was one such individual; he has been posthumously inducted into the Wilson County Agricultural Hall of Fame in recognition of his hard work and commitment to continuing the legacy of the family farm in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Riggan graduated from Mt. Juliet High School in 1937 and then attended the University of Tennessee (UT), from which he earned a degree in animal science in 1942; and

WHEREAS, while a student at UT, Mr. Riggan worked on a dairy farm and also, fortuitously, met his future wife, Christine Waters, who also graduated in 1942 and would later serve as a home demonstration agent in Spring Hill; and

WHEREAS, after the young couple purchased the Denny property in the Leeville community, Mrs. Riggan began teaching at Mt. Juliet High School while Mr. Riggan started a dairy farm, selling Grade A milk in cans and milking cows in a stanchion barn; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Riggan eventually grew his dairy business to 120 cows; he dispersed his dairy herd in 1968 but continued to purchase and sell Holstein heifers; and

WHEREAS, in the late 1980s, he switched his herd to Registered Hickory Ridge Charolais cattle; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Riggan gave back to his community by serving as a Wilson County commissioner in the 1960s and 1970s, and he helped found the Parent-Back Club at Lebanon High School; and

WHEREAS, he served on the board of the Wilson County Farm Bureau, and he and Mrs. Riggan were members of Mt. Olivet Baptist Church; and

WHEREAS, the Wilson County Agricultural Hall of Fame honors those dedicated citizens who have committed their lives to developing and maintaining the highest standards and principles in their chosen vocation, and it is fitting that we honor Mr. Riggan's valuable service to agriculture and the farming community; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Rufus H. Riggan upon the occasion of his posthumous induction into the Wilson County Agricultural Hall of Fame, reflecting fondly upon his many contributions to upholding the agricultural traditions of Wilson County and the State of Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.